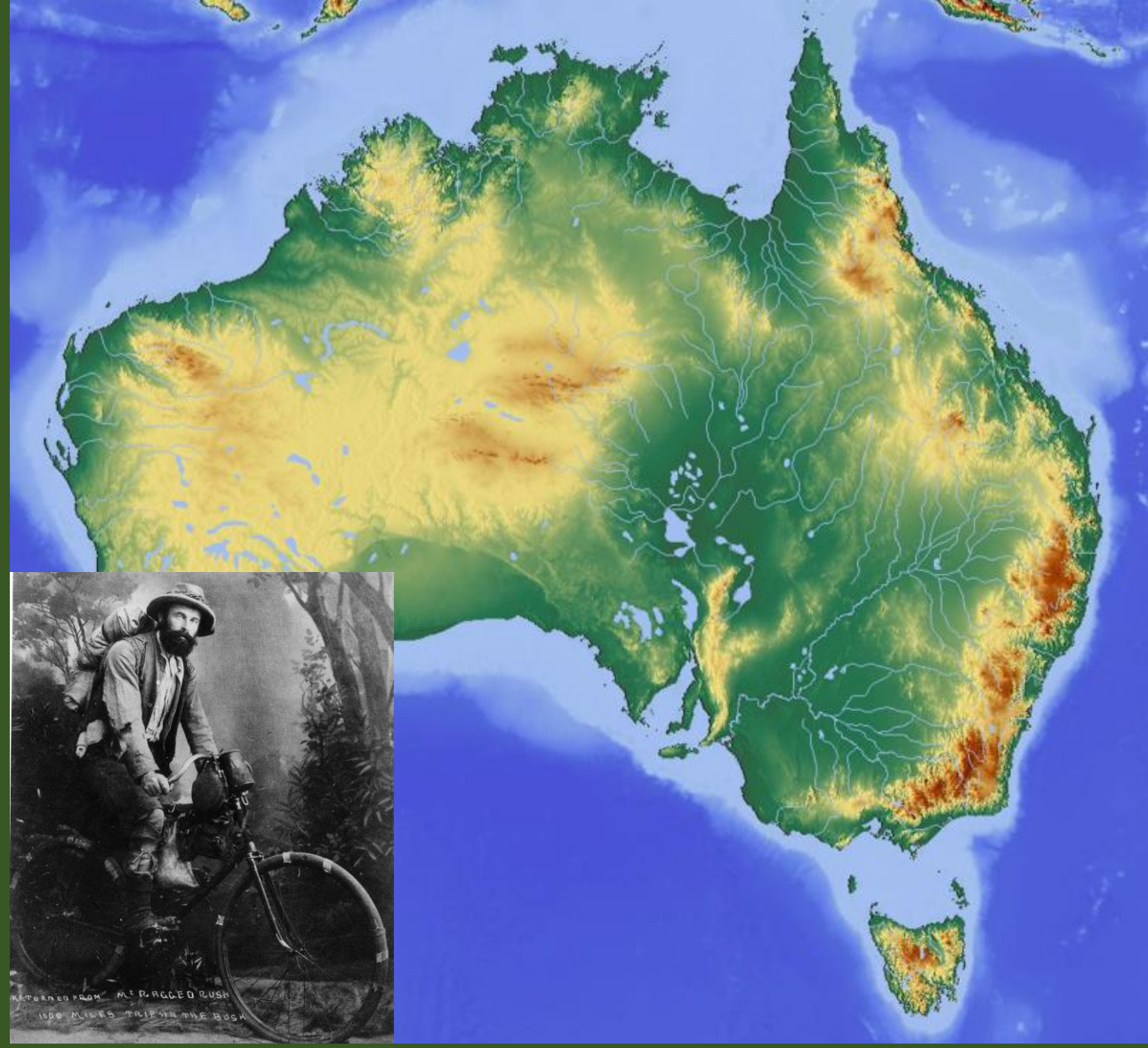


History of Cycling

Cycling in Australia

Cycling in Australia is a common form of transport, recreation and sport. Many Australians enjoy cycling because it improves their health and reduces road congestion and air pollution.[citation needed] The government has encouraged more people to start, with several state advertising campaigns aimed at increasing safety for those who choose to ride. There is a common perception that riding is a dangerous activity.[citation needed] While it is safer to walk, cycling is a safer method of transport than driving.[1] Cycling is less popular in Australia than in Europe, however cyclists make up one in forty road deaths and one in seven serious injuries.

In 2020, 1.7 million bicycle were sold

Bicycles arrived in Australia in 1860s, and the sport was quickly adopted with touring and racing clubs forming.

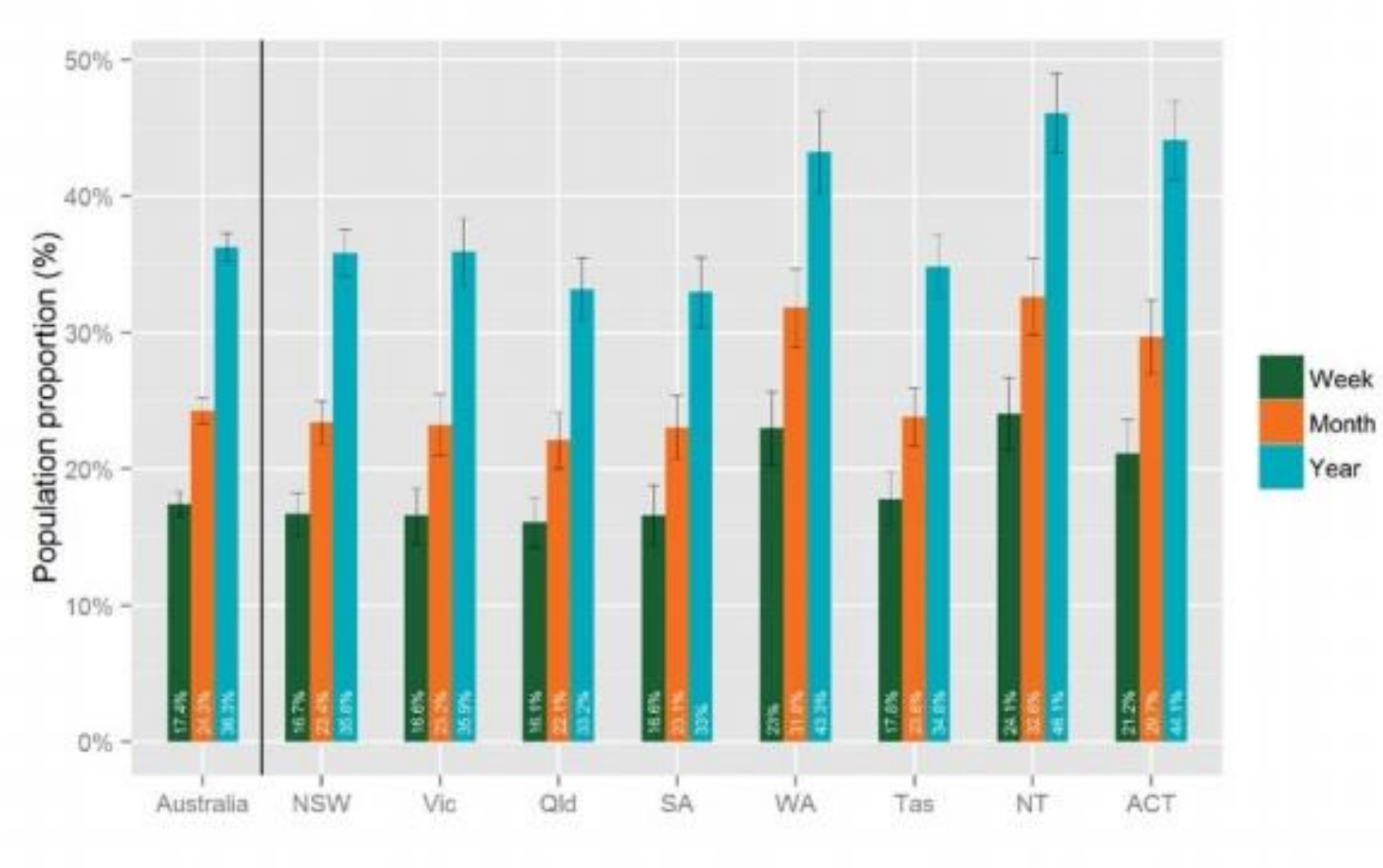
By the 1890s cycling was accessible to the middle class, and long distance cycle travelling was a fact of life for many sheep shearers and other agricultural labourers with migratory work. The bicycle and swag travelled much of Australia on dusty dirt tracks, long before the automobile made its appearance. In the main, however, long distance cycling was a sport of endurance or was done out of necessity.

A goldminer pictured after a 1000-mile (1,600-kilometre) round trip to the Mt Rugged Gold Rush in 1895

At the same time, racing became quite popular with the Austral Wheel Race beginning in 1887, and leading to the development of the Malvern Star cycling brand. The first Melbourne to Warrnambool Classic, a long distance event, was held in October 1895, eight years before the first Tour de France.

Between 1990 and 1992 Australia become the first country to make wearing helmets compulsory, after a number of studies indicated that they reduced head injuries. After their introduction, the overall number of riders decreased, mostly due to a decline in children riding to school. This has not conclusively shown to be due to mandatory helmet laws and may have followed pre-existing trends dating from the 1970s.

The cycling participation rates are the highest in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory (Figure 2.2).



■ **Figure 2.2: Cycling participation by state**

Cycling participation in Australia in 2015

Cyclists in every state are required to follow normal road rules, including using traffic lights correctly and observing give way and stop signs while riding on the road. Cyclists in every state must wear helmets while in motion. In all states, cyclists must ride as close as practicable to the left side of the road when on a single lane road, however, cyclists may use any lane and does not have to keep to the left on a multi-lane road. All states require only one passenger per bicycle unless the bicycle is designed otherwise.

A bike path in the suburb of Birrong

Birrong, a suburb of local government area City of Canterbury-Bankstown, is located 22 kilometres south-west of the Sydney central business district, in the state of New South Wales, Australia, and is a part of the South-western Sydney region.

Gracie Elvin - Women's road race at Rio 2016

Gracie Elvin (born 31 October 1988) is an Australian former racing cyclist, who rode professionally between 2012 and 2020, for the Faren–Honda Team and Mitchelton–Scott. Elvin is a two-time winner of the Australian National Road Race Championships, with victories in 2013 and 2014, and the first Australian rider to record a podium finish at the Tour of Flanders for Women, with second in 2017.

Elvin riding with Orica–AIS at the 2015 UCI Road World Championships

Karl Menzies (born 17 June 1977) is an Australian former professional road bicycle racer. He finished second in the 2006 USA Cycling National Racing Calendar to Floyd Landis. Menzies turned professional in 2005, he spent one season on the Advantage Benefits/Endeavour team.

In 2006, he won the Nature Valley Grand Prix, ahead of teammate Greg Henderson. In 2005, he finished first overall at the International Cycling Classic. In 2007, he won stage 1 of the Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under and was the overall winner at the International Tour de Toona stage race.

Bernard Sulzberger (born 5 December 1983 is an Australian former professional racing cyclist, who rode professionally between 2006 and 2016. He is the older brother of fellow professional racing cyclist Wesley Sulzberger.

Cameron Wurf Giro d'Italia 2013

Cameron Wurf (born 3 August 1983) is an Australian professional triathlete and road cyclist, who currently rides for UCI WorldTeam Ineos Grenadiers. He was a national champion and Australian representative rower – a 2004 Olympian who won a World Rowing U23 Championships title in 2003.

Cameron Wurf at the 2010 Tre Valli Varesine

TRE VALLI VARESINE
QUANDO IL CICLISMO È PASSIONE

SOC. CICLISTICA ALFREDO BINDA
VARESE
1929

The Tre Valli Varesine is a semi classic European bicycle race held in Varese, Italy. From 2005 to 2019, the race was organised as a 1.HC event on the UCI Europe Tour. In 2021 it joined the UCI ProSeries calendar after being cancelled in 2020.

It is usually the first and most important race of Trittico Lombardo, which consists of three races held around the region of Lombardy on three consecutive days. These races are Tre Valli Varesine, Coppa Ugo Agostoni and Coppa Bernocchi.

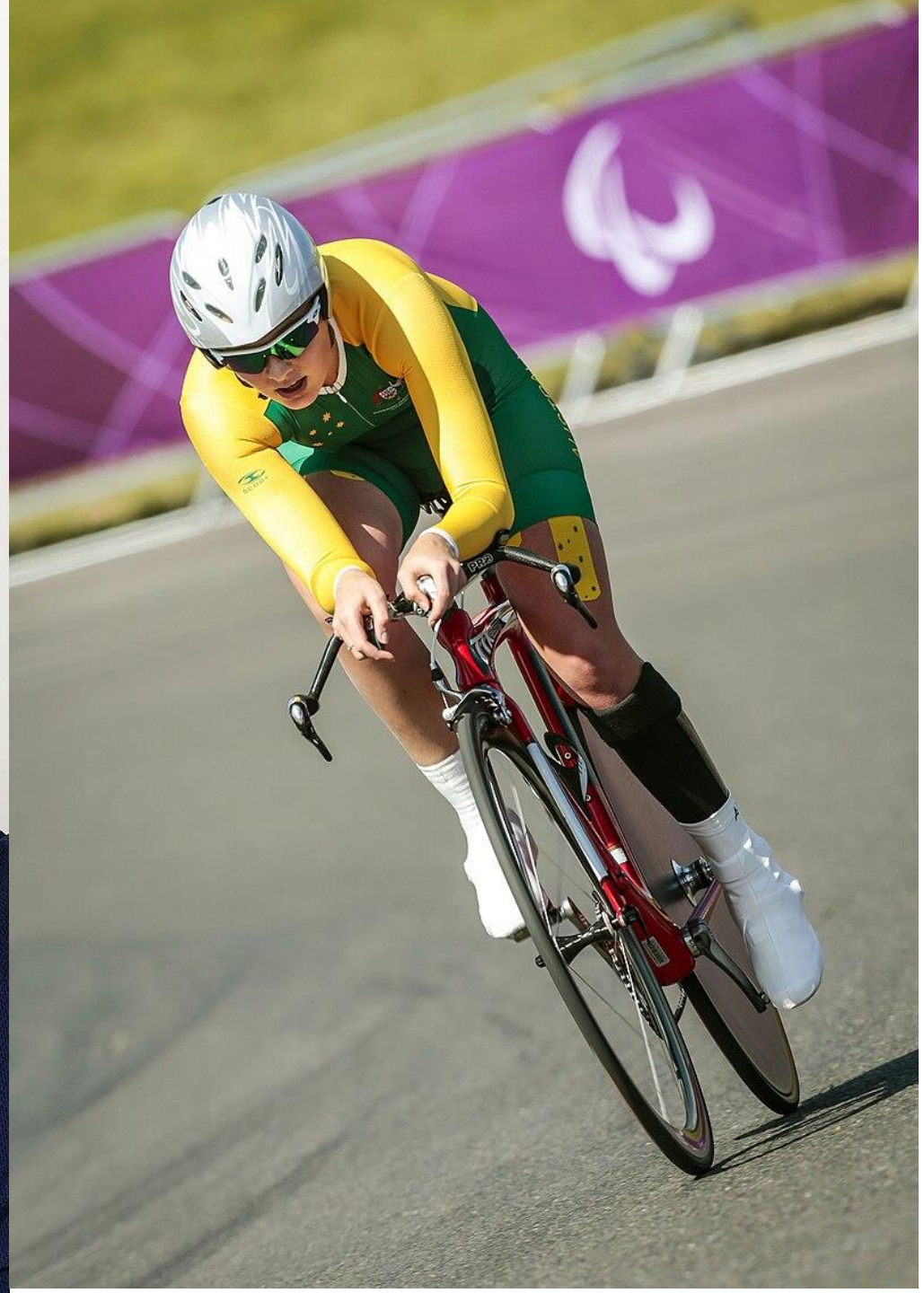
Graeme Gilmore (born 29 June 1945 in Launceston, Tasmania) is an Australian retired track cyclist. He is the father of Belgian racing cyclist Matthew Gilmore and brother in law of British racing cyclist Tom Simpson.

Gilmore started racing in November 1955 at the age of 10. He came second in his first race, a 1-mile event at York Park Track Launceston. He won his second race, the same month, again a 1-mile event at York Park Track. He won several juvenile and junior championships before beginning to compete for prize money at the age of 15, which in Australian at that time deemed him a professional.

In 1967 Gilmore was awarded both Australian Professional Road & Track Cyclist of the Year from "Road & Track" magazine readers, and became an inaugural member of the Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame. In the same year he won the Australian national road race title.[1] Gilmore was awarded Australian Cyclist of the Year 1972.

Gilmore was a successful track rider on the European Six-day racing scene.

Matthew Harley Goss (born 5 November 1986) is a former Australian professional road and track racing cyclist, his final professional team before retirement was the UCI Professional Continental team ONE Pro Cycling. He first competed in track cycling before making a transition to the road. He won a gold medal at the 2006 UCI Track Cycling World Championships in the Team Pursuit event and came in second place at the 2011 World Championships Road race.



Alexandra Lisney (née Green; born 2 July 1987) is an Australian rower and cyclist. She won a bronze medal in the Women's Individual Pursuit C4 at the 2012 Summer Paralympics. She represented Australian at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. Lisney is a C4 classified cyclist, and a member of Manly Warringah Cycling Club. She took up the sport in 2010. That year, at the NSW Track State Championships, she finished first in the C3 individual pursuit

Joyce Barry (March 1919 – 23 November 1999) was an Australian cyclist who held numerous records for long-distance cycling, most notably the women's seven-day record.

Returning to Sydney in September 1938 Barry established the women's seven day record of 1,107 miles (1,782 km). Her record was eclipsed in November 1939 by the next Malvern Star woman rider, Valda Unthank who rode 1,438.5 miles (2,315.0 km).

Sean Eadie (born 15 April 1969 in Sydney, Australia) is a retired professional track cyclist. He lives in Como, New South Wales. He started cycling at 10 and became a professional in 1990. Despite competitive aggression on the track, he is a "gentle giant" off the track. Prior to becoming a full-time cyclist, Eadie was a kindergarten teacher. He was awarded a Diploma of Teaching (Primary) from the Australian Catholic University.

In 2002 Eadie broke the Commonwealth Games record for a flying 200m in 10.145 on his way to winning silver in the sprint.

Eadie is known for his large beard, which earned him many nicknames, including Captain Haddock.

Matthew Dinham (born 9 April 2000) is an Australian cyclist, who currently rides for UCI WorldTeam Team dsm–firmenich PostNL.

Dinham was born in South Africa and lived there until he was 11. He started riding at the age of four, trying most of the other disciplines of cycling before settling on road. Dinham became an Australia citizen in 2017 a few weeks before he represented Australia at the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships

Dinham sprinted to seventh at the UCI World Under-23 Championships Road race in 2022.

The first Grand Tour that Dinham rode was the 2023 Tour de France where he rode in support of Romain Bardet. He finished the race in 58th and ninth in the Young rider classification. Dinam was a last minute call up for the Road race at the 2023 UCI Road World Championships after Caleb Ewan decided not to race.

Nick Gates 2007 Bay Cycling Classic 1

Nick Gates (born 10 March 1972 in Sydney) is an Australian former professional road bicycle racer.

In 1996 Gates won the Commonwealth Bank Classic and the Australian national road race title.

Gates twice competed in the Tour de France, riding for the Lotto-Domo team, but failed to finish either event, pulling out after the 15th stage in 2003 and after the first stage in 2004. His career ended with a fairytale victory in his self-named event, the Nick Gates Classic, in Townsville in 2008, where he won with the assistance of long-time teammate, Robbie McEwen.

Rochelle Gilmore (born 14 December 1981) is an Australian former racing cyclist, owner and manager of the professional cycling team Wiggle High5. Born in Sutherland, New South Wales, Gilmore competed in track cycling in her teens, before specialising in road racing for more than 10 years.

In a blogpost for cyclingnews.com in November 2015 Gilmore announced that she had retired from competition.

Bradley John McGee OAM (born 24 February 1976 in Sydney, New South Wales) is an Australian former professional racing cyclist. He is currently the head coach of the New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS). He started cycling in 1986 at the age of ten. He lives in Sydney and in Nice, France.

His greatest success as a road cyclist has been winning the 2003 prologue of the Tour de France, and leading the race for three days in 2003. In 2004, he wore the leader's pink jersey of the Giro d'Italia for one day. In 2005, he wore the leader's golden jersey for four days in the Vuelta a España. He was the first Australian to lead the Tour of Spain, and the first to wear the leader's jersey of all three Grand Tours. As a track cyclist and Australian Institute of Sport scholarship holder he met success in individual and team events. He won a gold medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens.

Rachel Neylan (born 9 March 1982) is an Australian professional road cyclist, who rides for UCI Women's Continental Team Cofidis. She won a silver medal at the 2012 World Championships in the women's road race event. She won the inaugural women's Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race in January 2015.

In late 2007, Neylan was accepted onto the development program at the South Australian Sports Institute. She rode domestic Australian races throughout 2008 and rode in both the US and Europe during the 2009 season, before signing with Team System Data for the 2010 season During the season she finished fourth at the Australian National Road Race Championships, however was forced out of the 2010 UCI Road World Championships after crashing on a training ride in Italy resulting in a broken jaw. Neylan moved to Parkhotel Valkenburg.[10] In August 2021, Neylan finished sixth overall in the Ladies Tour of Norway.

Jayme Richardson

Jayme Richardson (née Paris, born 27 April 1989) is an Australian Paralympic cyclist. She was born in the Sydney suburb of Blacktown with cerebellar ataxia due to asphyxiation at birth. She began cycling in October 2004 after seeing a post Athens Paralympic interview with Silver Medalist Claire McLean where Claire said Australia needed more female Para-cyclists. At the time Jayme was a swimmer and was doing very well, having competed both through school to CHS Level and out of school to National Level, however she felt that there was something greater out there for her and decided that a change was needed. She won a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Games in the Women's 500 m Time Trial LC3-4/CP3 event.

Sarah Roy, winner of stage 3 of the 2018 Women's Tour which finished in Royal Lemaington Spa.

Sarah Roy (born 27 February 1986) is an Australian professional racing cyclist, who currently rides for UCI Women's WorldTeam Canyon–SRAM.

Before focussing on racing on the road in 2009, Roy was a triathlete, but injured herself six months later which resulted in knee surgery. After two years off from cycling, Roy made her comeback over two years before her first professional contract at Poitou-Charentes.Futuroscope.86 in 2014.